GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3389
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
INDO-SINO BORDER TALKS
REENA CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `India, China working to resolve differences over maps` appearing in the `The Hindu` dated November 22, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the progress made so far in border talks between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The 14th meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Boundary Question was held in New Delhi on 21s November 2002. The discussions, which were spread over three sessions, were held in a positive and forward looking manner.

Both sides reviewed the ongoing process of LAC clarification. They also continued discussions on further Confidence Building Measures. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Expert Group (EG-14), which is a sub group of the JWG, would be held in Beijing in January 2003.

A detailed review of bilateral relations since JWG-13, which was held on 31 July, 2001, was undertaken. Chinese side welcomed the forthcoming visit of Hon`ble Speaker to China in early January 2003. This is a return visit for the visit of Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National People`s Congress of China to India in January 2001.Both sides agreed, inter alia, on the need to substantially enhance trade and economic relations, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Both sides also reviewed the functioning of the existing dialogue mechanisms such as on counter terrorism and security. The usefulness of these dialogues and need to sustain and broaden them was reaffirmed. Regional and international issues were also discussed. Chinese side conveyed that China sees its relations with India in a broader perspective and not only in the perspective of South Asia.